

ICCA advocacy principles and elements for chemical management systems

Introduction

One component of the ICCA Global Product Strategy (GPS) is a directive to develop global advocacy principles and elements, in consideration of existing national rules and regulations, to guide national and intergovernmental programs and initiatives for sound chemicals management. (General Strategy #9)

The aim of such global advocacy principles and elements is to foster greater consistency and transparency in chemical regulatory programs to promote regulatory convergence (where appropriate), and provide enough flexibility to accommodate existing and anticipated national or regional laws and regulations.

The regulatory principles and elements should help foster a regulatory environment in which industry initiatives like the Responsible Care Global Charter and the GPS can thrive. They are also intended to provide a common basis for industry to articulate what the industry supports in regulatory systems.

Principles for and elements of chemical regulatory systems

PRINCIPLE 1: The system should provide a sound national policy framework for chemical industry's operations in the market and aimed at improving public confidence in chemicals.

Supporting, promoting and making use of the innovative potential of the chemical industry within market conditions for the benefit of the society.

Providing legal certainty (security) to chemical industry's business and trade and rationalizing the legislative framework, in particular avoiding duplications.

Fostering cost – benefit proportionality in regulatory approaches and measures and avoiding excessive bureaucracy and costs.

Promoting international consistency in regulatory approaches and avoid any non-tariff barriers in international trade.

PRINCIPLE 2: A chemical regulatory system must be based on risk, not hazard.

Decisions must be based on an objective scientific evaluation of risk.

Chemicals should be managed so that they do not present an unreasonable risk.

Risk management measures should protect all segments of the population and the environment.

Risk assessment decisions should be made in a timely fashion.

Benefit/cost analysis should have a key role in risk management decisions.

PRINCIPLE 3: Chemicals should be screened to determine further information needs applying a tiered, risk-based approach.

The system should provide a basis for quickly and efficiently screening chemicals to evaluate the need for further hazard or exposure information to prioritize regulatory action, reduce uncertainty and improve the reliability of risk characterizations.

Decisions on whether chemicals need further evaluation or additional information gathering/generation must be based on a set of defined criteria that are based on a firm scientific foundation.

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There should be a clear communication of the results (rankings, priorities, and uncertainties) associated with chemical screening categorizations.

PRINCIPLE 4: The system should leverage existing, available information.

All valid information should be used (including data from producers and users) in chemical management decisions in a weight of evidence approach.

There should be a systematic gathering of available hazard and exposure information to be used in chemical management decisions, including information gathered on similar chemicals through validated computer modelling and/or QSAR (quantitative structure activity relationship) approaches and validated non-animal test methods.

The use of laboratory animals in testing should be minimized wherever possible by assuring maximum use of existing information.

PRINCIPLE 5: The system should reinforce the responsibilities of each party throughout the value chain for compliance with regulations as well as commitments to responsible action.

There should be a transparent flow of information between businesses along the chain of commerce, so that producers and users can evaluate and manage risks, and provide meaningful and relevant information to their respective stakeholders.

The system should promote cooperation among producers, distributors and users of chemicals to assure that data and information necessary in chemical risk characterization is developed, shared, and applied.

The system should provide a basis that encourages producers, distributors and users to take voluntary measures that further promote the safe use of chemical products.

If parties within the value chain identify a practice involving a chemical product that presents an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment, parties will work with others in the value chain, as appropriate to reduce risk. If, in the parties' independent judgments, those efforts are unsuccessful, then the parties should take further measures – up to and including termination of product sale or use of the chemical product associated with the practice of concern..

PRINCIPLE 6: The system should promote data quality and transparency and allow access to useful information to interested parties including the general public; it should guarantee a fair balance between public access to data and legitimate protection of business information.

Risk characterization and risk management information shall be made publicly available.

Health and safety information related to humans and the environment should not be considered confidential.

The system should afford appropriate protection to confidential business information.

The system should develop and support means to share information with other governments, while protecting legitimate business interests in proprietary information.

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